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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 002762

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/03/2015

TAGS: [PREL](#) [KWBG](#) [IS](#) [SETTLEMENTS](#) [GAZA](#) [DISENGAGEMENT](#)

SUBJECT: NOF HASHARON SETTLEMENT MAY GET BUYERS:

DISENGAGEMENT EVACUEES

Classified By: Ambassador Daniel C. Kurtzer for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

Consulate General Jerusalem cleared this cable.

1. (C) Summary: Dror Ginatt, Secretary General of the Israeli community of Nirit, told econoff that the town chairman of the settlement of Homesh recently visited him to inquire about moving Homesh's settlers to Nirit after disengagement. Ginatt informed him that there are no vacancies in Nirit, and suggested that the settlers look at the new settlement of Nof HaSharon on the other side of the Green Line in the West Bank. Ginatt also told econoff that since the High Court decided to allow the development of Nof HaSharon, Nirit's residents are now negotiating with the developers to limit Nof HaSharon's size to 50 housing units in exchange for use of Nirit's infrastructure. Arie Han, a resident of Nirit, told econoff that Nirit's residents voted in favor of negotiations in a very close vote, rather than trying to appeal the High Court's decision, because the residents "want to minimize the damage," but he thought it was "naive" to think that Nof HaSharon would not grow beyond 50 units because there are powerful, ideological interests behind the new settlement. End summary.

Homesh Settlers to be Nirit's Neighbors?

2. (C) Dror Ginatt, Secretary General of Nirit, the Israeli community that abuts the Green Line, told economic officer on May 3 that the town chairman of Homesh recently visited him to discuss moving Homesh's residents to Nirit. (Note: Homesh is one of the northern West Bank settlements slated for evacuation under the disengagement plan. End note.) Ginatt said he responded that there are no vacancies in Nirit, but Homesh's residents could possibly move to Nof HaSharon instead, the new settlement being developed adjacent to Nirit but on the east side of the Green Line in the West Bank. Ginatt explained that although Nirit and Nof HaSharon "are in negotiations and still an open case," Nirit's residents will not try to "manipulate" who buys land in Nof HaSharon. Press reports from the Jerusalem Post indicate that Homesh is currently negotiating with the government to move its residents to Nof HaSharon.

Nirit Allows Infrastructure
Connection For No More Growth

3. (C) Ginatt noted that the ongoing negotiations between Nirit and Nof HaSharon relate to Nof HaSharon not being able to expand beyond 50 housing units. Since the High Court almost two months ago decided to allow the development of the new settlement, Nirit's residents agreed that Nof HaSharon could use their infrastructure services if the development does not expand beyond 50 housing units, according to Ginatt. Nirit's residents do not have the money for an appeal against the High Court's decision, and do not expect to win, so they have "decided to accept it if there is no more development in Nof HaSharon" beyond the 50 units. Ginatt said the negotiations with the developers on zoning changes are going well. He commented that the developers have accepted the concept of no more than 50 units because they want to "finish and get out of the picture."

4. (C) Arie Han, a resident of Nirit, told econoff that Nirit's residents decided to enter into negotiations with the developers in a very close vote of 159-148. He pointed out that almost 50 percent of Nirit's residents who voted still do not want Nof HaSharon to grow next to their community, even though the vote passed, because they perceive it violates GOI commitments to the U.S., and because they do not believe the settlement will stop at 50 units. Han added that many of Nirit's residents did not vote at all because they are tired and do not believe anything can be done to stop the development of the new settlement. Han continued that those who voted for negotiations with Nof HaSharon's developers did so because they "want to minimize the damage but it's naive" because Nof HaSharon will grow beyond 50 houses regardless of any agreement. He said there are ideological interests behind the establishment of the settlement that will not be stopped.

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KURTZER